

Marine Biology- Arc GIS Stop and Frisk Essay

In 2002 the NYPD backed by Mayor Bloomberg announced that a new operation would be taking place involving the NYPD having the legal right to stop anyone, anywhere at any time for absolutely no reason. The theory behind it was that if criminals know that the NYPD has the ability to do this, they will stop bringing out illegal drugs weapons and other such contraband, however almost immediately the flaw in conducting the operation itself was exposed. Officers went about stopping and frisking people at “random” the problem was that these random stops consisted of stopping predominantly African American and Hispanic people. In 2008 88% of people stopped were black or Hispanic. There was absolutely no way that these operations were being conducted at “random”, blacks and Hispanics were being targeted.

Although crime did fall significantly overall there was a price to pay, law abiding minorities were afraid of the police, they were being stopped on their way to work, stopped on their way home. The movement of a race was being slowed because of this operation. My team and I set out to see if the stop and frisk operations were truly focusing on minorities, by checking NYPD data bases for stop and frisk operation records and seeing what communities the operations were focused in.

We first attained a shape file of the five boroughs and uploaded that onto the GIS program, and then we got a shape file which divided the boroughs into precinct districts determining where officers from one precinct are allowed to operate until they are in another precincts jurisdiction, to be clear officers have jurisdiction all over NYC however during patrols they are usually told to stay within their precincts boundaries. Our final shape file was attained

through the NYPD's record database, we were able to find the stop and frisk operations that were conducted on an available shape file, we then uploaded it onto the GIS map and what we found was very disturbing. 85% of the stop and frisk operations that were recorded were located in East New York, Harlem and the Bronx, all predominantly Black and Hispanic communities.

After collecting and then analyzing the data provided to us in the shape file, it was safe to assume that these "random" operations were not random after all; the operations were concentrated in black and Hispanic communities. If these operations were supposed to be random then there should not have been any one particular community targeted. This operation completely restricted the movement of a race of people and we were not the only ones to notice. When Mayor De Blasio ran for office he pointed out the flaws of this operation and swore to address them if he was elected. He was and in 2013 he abolished the NYPD's right to randomly stop and frisk anyone at anytime. The "Stop and Frisk" operations had finally come to an end. The fact that these operations were allowed in the first place brings us to questions what other injustices are in place around America and the world. Arc GIS technology may be the gateway to finding out.